

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-02 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/ HDC: EPNOZIGILIA

APPROVED BY IO/ HDC: PENOZIGLIA

EA/ RA: MISS ISOM PHONE

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R 141937 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 115799

THE FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK FROM  
RANGOON JUNE 13 TH IS REPEATED.

QUOTE. S E C R E T RANGOON 1373

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: RENEWAL OF EQUIPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: RANGOON 1338

1. PYI SOE INFORMED ME LAST NIGHT DURING A SOCIAL FUNCTION THAT HE HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS ON NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT. HOME MINISTER U KO KO HAD GOTTEN THE GO- AHEAD FROM NE WIN BEFORE LATTER LEFT FOR INDONESIA JUNE 11.
  2. PYI SOE SAID BURMESE WOULD LIKE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WHERE THEY LEFT OFF LAST YEAR. BY THIS HE MEANT THAT THEY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT EQUIPMENT. FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION, REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS, ETC., GUB HAD DECIDED TO RELY ON UN ( SEE RANGOON 1174).
  3. PYI SOE STRESSED THAT BURMESE DID NOT WANT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE US BUT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE AN OFFER. RECALLING THAT DURING NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR WE HAD OFFERED 6 PORTER AIRCRAFT, I ASKED WHETHER BURMESE WANTED US TO RENEW THAT
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OFFER? PYI SOE' S RESPONSE WAS THAT THE PORTERS WERE " TOO LIGHT".

4. I TOLD PYI SOE THAT WHILE I UNDERSTOOD BURMESE SENSITIVITY ABOUT REQUESTING AID FROM THE US ( WHICH MIGHT BE TURNED DOWN) THEY SHOULD TELL US WHAT THEIR NEEDS ARE. WHAT WE COULD SUPPLY WOULD OF COURSE BE LIMITED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE IN INCREMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. HE ALSO HINTED THAT AT SOME POINT BURMA MIGHT WISH TO MAKE PRIVATE PURCHASES.

6. COMMENT:

A. I AM SEEKING AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH PYI SOE TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON EQUIPMENT AND HOPE TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF GUB' S POSITION. TO MY MIND THERE IS A STRONGER CASE FOR PROVIDING EQUIPMENT TO GUB THIS YEAR THAN THERE WAS A YEAR AGO. WE USED TO HARP PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY ON " OPIUM KING" LO HSING- HAN AND THE TACHILEK REFINERY COMPLEX ( PROBABLY THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD) AS TWO BLACK MARKS AGAINST BURMA IN THE INTERNATIONAL WAR AGAINST NARCOTICS. GUB HAS NOW WIPED OUT TACHILEK REFINERY COMPLEX AND IS ACTIVELY FIGHTING ITS ERSTWHILE ALLY LO HSING- HAN AND OTHER KEY SMUGGLERS ( SEE RANGOON 1366). CONSIDERING WHAT GUB HAS DONE ON ITS OWN IN PAST FEW MONTHS WE CAN HARDLY BE LESS GENEROUS THAN WE WERE WILLING TO BE LAST YEAR AND I BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE OUR BEST INTERESTS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING.

B. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE, FOR MY OWN INFORMATION ONLY AT THIS POINT, SOME INDICATION OF LEVEL AND TIME PHASING OF INCREMENTAL ASSISTANCE WE MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO MAKE AVAILABLE. I WOULD NOT WISH TO LEAD PYI SOE DOWN GARDEN PATH ONLY TO CREATE DISAPPOINTMENT AT END.  
MARTIN  
UNQUOTE. PORTER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** collinp0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 RANGOON 1338  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** collinp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <28-Sep-2001 by thigpegh, REFER TO DOJ/DEA>; RELEASED <22 FEB 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by collinp0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NARCOTICS: RENEWAL OF EQUIPMENT NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** SNAR, BM  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005